

He further states:

Ten days ago a new audit was released that shows that Arafat has diverted at least another \$900 million of public money into his own special bank account. This is being done while the Palestinian people continue to suffer from housing shortages and high unemployment. Arafat makes sure they have enough explosives and weapons to kill Israelis when they get bored. The Palestinian people continue to live in misery while Arafat's wife and daughter reside in France living in luxury.

Michael O'Callaghan writes more, but I think we get the point.

Arafat must go. He is a man of hate. Arafat is a man of hate. Since 1948 he has resented the very existence of Israel. He might say his views have changed, but as my mother used to say, actions speak louder than words. And by his actions we know Arafat for what he is, a bankrupt and corrupt leader of a badly suffering people, and someone who is not serious about achieving lasting peace.

We know that elements with varying degrees of affiliation with the PLO, including the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade and Force 17, have frequently been involved in violence against innocent Israelis.

We know that documents found at Arafat's compound, with his signature, authorized cash payments to members of the Martyrs Brigade. We know the leader of the Martyrs Brigade said he is "following the orders of Yasser Arafat." We know that former Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas resigned because Arafat refused to surrender security for Palestinian security forces.

Why did Arafat undermine Abbas? It is simple. He does not want peace with Israel. Forget what he says, look at his actions.

Since the cease-fire in the Middle East was announced 3 months ago, there have been at least 240 terrorist attacks on Israel. This happened while Arafat stood by failing to engage security forces of the Palestinians.

Since Arafat took control of the Palestinian Authority, hundreds of Israelis have been murdered. But his stubborn refusal to accept peace has made life miserable for the 3.35 million Palestinian people in the west bank and the Gaza strip.

We know that Prime Minister Barak courageously gave Arafat everything he asked, but Arafat could not take yes for an answer because he is a terrorist and cannot get that out of his blood.

Today, half of all Palestinians are unemployed and 59 percent live in poverty. This misery breeds desperation which suits the purposes of Arafat and other terrorists. In the midst of this desperation he controls personal war chests of tens of millions of dollars, if not hundreds of millions, with investments across the world. He spends his money as he pleases and is accountable to only one person: Yasser Arafat, himself.

It is in this milieu that Arafat stands by as desperate young men and women commit suicide murders in exchange for large sums of money for their families and a promise of eternal paradise

for themselves. They waste their young lives and murder innocent Israelis.

It is now time to hold Yasser Arafat accountable. If he cares about his people, there are other leaders there who could carry on and do a good job for the Palestinian people. But he cares about Yasser Arafat. It is time we hold this man accountable.

I am submitting this resolution right now, along with Senator DASCHLE, calling upon Arafat to immediately resign his position as President of the Palestinian National Authority because he is a hindrance to peace in the Middle East and that such peace depends on institutions that are free from the taint of terrorism. That is the only way Palestinian people will ever achieve their dream of a free, self-governed homeland.

Let me be clear, I support the people of Palestine. They have a right to self-rule. They have a right to control it themselves. But I also support strongly Israel's right to live in peace and to defend itself against terrorism. Israel is at war against terrorism just as we are, but even more amplified. We can never accept or tolerate terrorism in any form at any time any place in the world.

In the name of peace in the middle East and in the world, in the name of prosperity and self-rule for the Palestinian people, Yasser Arafat must go.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I come to the floor and rise in strong support of the resolution submitted by the distinguished assistant Democratic leader, Senator REID, this afternoon.

It was 3 years ago that we had an opportunity to bring real peace to the region. In September of 2000 there was a great deal of optimism, a great deal of hope, a great promise that after months and months of negotiation we could have finally found a peaceful resolution and move to the next step in the peaceful coexistence of people in the Middle East.

For reasons still unclear, Yasser Arafat walked away from that agreement, disappointing, disillusioning, and, in so many ways, undermining the peace process.

Over the course of the last 3 years, 800 Israelis have been killed, 2,400 Palestinians have died.

Where he has had an opportunity to renounce violence, he has condoned it. Where he has had an opportunity to embrace peace, he has repelled it. At virtually every turn, regardless of circumstance, Mr. Arafat sends the wrong message about leadership, about commitment, about the spirit that was so alive just 3 years ago.

In the creation of a new government, Mr. Arafat had yet another opportunity to stand behind his new Prime Minister, Abu Mazen, and to say, through him and through this new office: We will resolve our differences. We will bring violence to an end. We will find ways with which to establish a peaceful coexistence. Yet he chose once again to walk away from that opportunity, if not undermine it in every way.

Now there is a new government, at least under consideration. Again,

Arafat sends all the wrong messages about what he expects from that new government, its allegiance to him, not to the process, not to the people, not to a commitment for a better future—it is to him.

Some of us want to use this occasion, through this resolution, to make it clear that Mr. Arafat has been an impediment to peace. Mr. Arafat has done virtually everything to thwart peace. As a result, we find ourselves in a situation far worse than it was just 3 years ago. It is a tragedy—a tragedy that has amounted to the loss of 3,200 lives in 3 years.

I hope my colleagues will join us in sending a clear message that we cannot have peace, we cannot have any expectation, any hope of stability and the realization within our grasp that death can end, without sending a clear message to those responsible: We cannot tolerate this kind of leadership. We cannot tolerate this kind of irresponsible and dangerous direction. We will speak out in every way, shape, and form we can until this matter is resolved.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FITZGERALD). The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

Mr. REID. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. REID and Mr. DASCHLE pertaining to the submission of S. Res. 236 are located in today's RECORD under "Submission of Concurrent and Senate Resolutions.")

#### RECESS UNTIL 9:15 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 9:15 a.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:17 p.m., recessed until Tuesday, September 30, 2003, at 9:15 a.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate September 29, 2003:

##### THE JUDICIARY

RAYMOND W. GRUENDER, OF MISSOURI, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT, VICE PASCO M. BOWMAN II, RETIRED.

##### IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

##### To be rear admiral

CAPT. JOHN C. ACTON, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 271:

##### To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. ARTHUR E. BROOKS, 0000  
CAPT. RICHARD R. KELLY, 0000  
CAPT. DAVID P. PEKOSKE, 0000  
CAPT. FRED M. ROSA, 0000  
CAPT. TIMOTHY S. SULLIVAN, 0000

##### THE JUDICIARY

WILLIAM JAMES HAYNES II, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT, VICE H. EMORY WIDENER, JR., RETIRING.

#### CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate September 29, 2003:

##### THE JUDICIARY

CARLOS T. BEA, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT.